



# Department of State

# EXCISE

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AN: N790007-0326

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ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-00 ADS-00 /000 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/RPM:RHARRISON  
APPROVED BY P:DAVID NEWSOM  
EUR/SOV:MPARRIS CTA:MR DEAN  
S/MS:MJOYCE OOD:MR KRAMER  
S/P:PKREISBERG  
PM:WCOURTNEY  
ARA:RBRAIBANTI L:LSTORCH  
INR:DHOWELLS S/S: PAU BREMER II  
H:MLEDISKY  
NSC:SLARRABEE

NODIS REVIEW	
Cat. A	Caption removed; transferred to O/FADRC
Cat. B	Transferred to O/FADRC with additional access controlled by S/S
Cat. C	Caption and custody retained by S/S
Reviewed by:	<i>[Signature]</i>
Date:	15 Feb 84

-----022458 3100512 /62

O 310032Z AUG 79 ZFF6  
FM SCSTATE WASHDC  
TO USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY MADRID IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE  
USINT HAVANA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY BEIJING IMMEDIATE

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NODIS

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR	
REVIEWED BY <i>J.L. SHUTT</i>	DATE <i>NOV 3 0 1984</i>
CLASSIFICATION EXTENDED	
REASON FOR EXTENSION	DATE <i>OADR</i>
TS AUTH. <i>J. BURKE</i>	REASON(S) <i>CDC MEMO</i>
EXEMPTED EXISTING MARKINGS	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>5/13/83</i>
DECLASSIFIED/RELEASABLE	<input type="checkbox"/>
PERMISSION DENIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>IN PAR</i>
FA or FOI EXEMPTIONS	<i>8-1</i>

E.O. 12065: GDS 8/30/85 (GOODBY, JAMES E.)

TAGS: UR

SUBJECT: (S) SOVIET GROUND UNIT IN CUBA

1. (S - ENTIRE TEXT)

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2. FYI. WE HAVE HAD INCONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE FOR SEVERAL

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YEARS OF THE PRESENCE IN CUBA OF WHAT APPEARED TO BE A  
SOVIET UNIT OF SOME TYPE.

WE HAVE NOW  
CONFIRMED THAT THE UNIT IS INDEED SOVIET AND PROBABLY  
NUMBERS BETWEEN 2,000 AND 3,000 MEN. WE REMAIN UNCERTAIN  
AS TO ITS MISSION AND THE PRECISE DATE OF ITS PLACEMENT  
IN CUBA. OUR BEST ESTIMATE IS THAT IT WAS IN CUBA BY  
AT LEAST 1976. IN ADDITION TO THE "BRIGADE" WE ESTIMATE  
THAT THERE ARE ABOUT 1,500 - 2,000 SOVIET MILITARY  
ADVISORY AND TECHNICAL PERSONNEL IN CUBA.

3. WORD OF THE UNIT'S PRESENCE HAS LEAKED TO AVIATION  
WEEK, AND WE EXPECT IT TO BE PICKED UP RAPIDLY BY THE  
REST OF THE MEDIA. END FYI.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: ACTION ADDRESSEES SHOULD CONVEY  
TO THE ALLIES/HOST COUNTRIES AT EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY THE  
FOLLOWING (FYI - THESE SAME TALKING POINTS HAVE BEEN  
USED IN BRIEFING THE CONGRESS):

5. -- WE HAVE RECENTLY CONFIRMED THE PRESENCE IN CUBA  
OF WHAT APPEARS TO BE A SOVIET COMBAT UNIT.  
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO  
CONFIRM THE PRESENCE OF A SOVIET GROUND FORCES  
UNIT ON THE ISLAND.

-- ELEMENTS OF THE UNIT APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN THERE  
SINCE AT LEAST 1976. WE ESTIMATE THAT IT CONSISTS  
OF 2,000 TO 3,000 MEN. IN ADDITION, WE ESTIMATE  
THAT THE SOVIETS MAINTAIN BETWEEN 1,500 AND 2,000  
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MILITARY ADVISORY AND TECHNICAL PERSONNEL IN CUBA.

-- AS CURRENTLY CONFIGURED AND SUPPORTED, THE UNIT  
POSES NO THREAT TO THE U.S.

-- GROUND FORCES PER SE DID NOT FIGURE IN OUR  
BILATERAL UNDERSTANDINGS WITH THE SOVIETS WHICH  
WERE DIRECTED TOWARD OFFENSIVE WEAPONS SYSTEMS.

-- NONETHELESS, WE ARE NATURALLY CONCERNED ABOUT  
THE PRESENCE OF SOVIET COMBAT FORCES IN CUBA.

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-- WE HAVE IN RECENT MONTHS EXPRESSED TO THE SOVIETS OUR CONCERN OVER THE SOVIET/CUBAN MILITARY RELATIONSHIP. ON AUGUST 29 WE INFORMED THE SOVIET CHARGE THAT THE BRIGADE'S PRESENCE WOULD BE AN ADDITIONAL BURDEN ON OUR RELATIONSHIP. WE WILL CONTINUE OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH THEM ON THIS SUBJECT.

-- WE WILL, OF COURSE, CONTINUE TO MONITOR ALL ASPECTS OF SOVIET MILITARY ACTIVITIES IN CUBA TO ENSURE THERE IS NO THREAT TO THE U.S.

6. FOR NATO: YOU MAY TELL THE PERPREPS THAT OPTIONS FOR DEALING WITH PROBLEMS CREATED BY THE SOVIET PRESENCE ARE NOW BEING CONSIDERED BY THE PRESIDENT. WE WILL KEEP USNATO FULLY INFORMED AS DECISIONS ARE MADE.

VANCE

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